

Message Text

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62

ACTION NEA-10

INFO OCT-01 EUR-12 ISO-00 SS-15 NSC-05 CPR-01 PA-01 USIA-06

PRS-01 /052 W

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R 281310Z JAN 76

FM AMEMBASSY MANAMA BAHRAIN

TO SECSTATE WASHINGTON DC 2735

INFO AMEMBASSY ABU DHABI UAE

AMEMBASSY DOHA QATAR

AMEMBASSY KUWAIT KUWAIT

AMEMBASSY LONDON ENGLAND

AMEMBASSY PARIS FRANCE

C O N F I D E N T I A L MANAMA 089

E.O. 11652: GDS

TAGS : PFOR. BA

SUBJECT : AMIR OF BAHRAIN TO VISIT FRANCE

1. AMIR OF BAHRAIN TELLS ME THAT HE HAS ACCEPTED INVITATION
TO MAKE OFFICIAL VISIT TO FRANCE IN MARCH.

2. AMIR EVIDENCED CONSIDERABLE REAL OR FEIGNED LACK OF
PERSONAL ENTHUSIASM ABOUT THE INVITATION. HE IS UNIQUE
AMONG GULF RULERS IN AVOIDING OFFICIAL TRAVEL WHENEVER
POSSIBLE AND OFTEN PRIVATELY QUITE CRITICAL OF HIS LOWER GULF
COLLEAGUES FOR THEIR TENDENCY TO JOURNEY ABROAD FREQUENTLY
RATHER THAN MINDING THE STORE AT HOME. HENCE, HE MAY BE
SINCERE IN CONSIDERING AN OFFICIAL VISIT TO FRANCE, WHICH HE
PRIVATELY DESCRIBED AS "A FAR AWAY LAND WITH WHICH WE HAVE
LITTLE REAL SIGNIFICANT RELATIONSHIP", AS A BURDEN OF OFFICE.

3. COMMENT: SHOULD THE AMIR, WHO VISITED THE U.S. "SEMI-
OFFICIALLY" IN 1968 BEFORE BAHRAIN'S FULL INDEPENDENCE, EVER
BE INVITED TO MAKE AN OFFICIAL VISIT TO WASHINGTON, I AM SURE
HIS REACTION WOULD BE NOTABLY MORE ENTHUSIASTIC.
THE FRENCH INVITATION, COMING ON TOP OF THE CALLAGHAN AND
DUKE OF KENT VISITS HERE, OF COURSE INTENSIFIES THE NEED TO
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INVITE THE AMIR OF BAHRAIN TO VISIT THE U.S. IN

THE NOT TOO DISTANT FUTURE. WE EXPECT THE BAHRAINIS TO
CONTINUE TO BE BOTH POLITE ABOUT THE ABSENCE OF AN
INVITATION AND SHY ABOUT HINTING FOR ONE. WE WOULD LIKE TO
REITERATE, HOWEVER, OUR RECOMMENDATION IN OUR 1975 POLICY
ASSESSMENT: "THAT WE CAN PROBABLY FEND OFF THE NEED TO
INVITE THE AMIR TO WASHINGTON THROUGH 1976 SINCE PRIOR
VISITS BY THE AMIR OF KUWAIT AND EVEN THE PRESIDENT OF
THE UAE WOULD BE EXPLICABLE; BY 1977, HOWEVER, AND
CERTAINLY BEFORE THE AMIR OF QATAR VISITS WASHINGTON
OFFICIALLY, WE WILL OWE THE AMIR OF BAHRAIN AN OFFICIAL
INVITATION". END COMMENT.
TWINAM

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Message Attributes

Automatic Decaptioning: X
Capture Date: 01 JAN 1994
Channel Indicators: n/a
Current Classification: UNCLASSIFIED
Concepts: CHIEF OF STATE VISITS, INVITATIONS, DIPLOMATIC DISCUSSIONS
Control Number: n/a
Copy: SINGLE
Draft Date: 28 JAN 1976
Decaption Date: 01 JAN 1960
Decaption Note:
Disposition Action: RELEASED
Disposition Approved on Date:
Disposition Authority: CunninFX
Disposition Case Number: n/a
Disposition Comment: 25 YEAR REVIEW
Disposition Date: 28 MAY 2004
Disposition Event:
Disposition History: n/a
Disposition Reason:
Disposition Remarks:
Document Number: 1976MANAMA00089
Document Source: CORE
Document Unique ID: 00
Drafter: n/a
Enclosure: n/a
Executive Order: GS
Errors: N/A
Film Number: D760033-0213
From: MANAMA
Handling Restrictions: n/a
Image Path:
ISecure: 1
Legacy Key: link1976/newtext/t19760114/aaaaaltr.tel
Line Count: 73
Locator: TEXT ON-LINE, ON MICROFILM
Office: ACTION NEA
Original Classification: CONFIDENTIAL
Original Handling Restrictions: n/a
Original Previous Classification: n/a
Original Previous Handling Restrictions: n/a
Page Count: 2
Previous Channel Indicators: n/a
Previous Classification: CONFIDENTIAL
Previous Handling Restrictions: n/a
Reference: n/a
Review Action: RELEASED, APPROVED
Review Authority: CunninFX
Review Comment: n/a
Review Content Flags:
Review Date: 22 APR 2004
Review Event:
Review Exemptions: n/a
Review History: RELEASED <22 APR 2004 by BoyleJA>; APPROVED <12 AUG 2004 by CunninFX>
Review Markings:

Margaret P. Grafeld
Declassified/Released
US Department of State
EO Systematic Review
04 MAY 2006

Review Media Identifier:
Review Referrals: n/a
Review Release Date: n/a
Review Release Event: n/a
Review Transfer Date:
Review Withdrawn Fields: n/a
Secure: OPEN
Status: NATIVE
Subject: : AMIR OF BAHRAIN TO VISIT FRANCE
TAGS: PFOR, OVIP, BA, FR, (KHALIFA, ISA IBN SALMAN AL)
To: STATE
Type: TE
Markings: Margaret P. Grafeld Declassified/Released US Department of State EO Systematic Review 04 MAY 2006